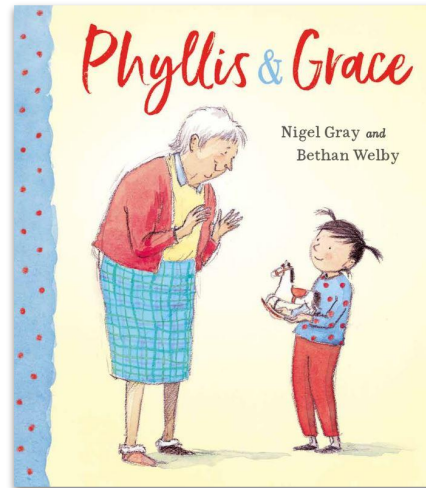


# Bethan Welby

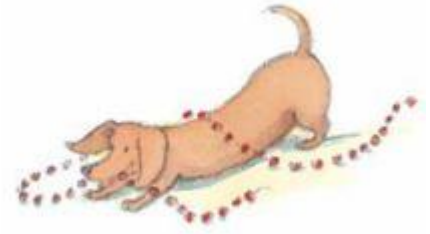


Bethan Welby spent many years in Educational Publishing before graduating from the MA Children's Book Illustration course at Cambridge School of Art in 2019. She lives in South Devon and is also a keen Printmaker.

She is the author of *The After Christmas Tree* which was longlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize and has illustrated *Phyllis & Grace* by Nigel Gray.



# EVENTS



**Cost: In person £150 + travel expenses | Virtual £75**

## **The After Christmas Tree**

Join Bethan for a reading of *The After Christmas Tree* followed by a chat about the book. This will be discussed with teachers before hand and can include themes of environmental awareness, recycling and kindness.

Afterwards, Bethan will lead a craft activity where we make a stand up version of Brian's dog. Drawing him, cutting him out and colouring him in. Younger children may require some assistance with cutting out.

**Equipment needed will be: pens/crayons, scissors and stiff paper/card. | Suitable for ages 3yrs and above.**

**Group size: by arrangement | Duration: 1 hour.**

## **Phyllis & Grace**

Bethan will give a reading of *Phyllis & Grace* followed by a discussion about the book. This story can be a gentle conversation starter on Dementia and ageing, but also has themes of empathy and friendship. Bethan will discuss the themes to be covered with teachers beforehand.

Afterwards, Bethan will lead an activity where she draws a **Memory Box** on a flip chart or white board and then adds the things that the children chose to put in it for Phyllis.

One way to help people with Alzheimers remember things is to make a Memory Box with familiar things and photographs in it. What do you think Grace would put in Phyllis's Memory Box?

Finally, the children are given sheets with a memory box for them to fill with either a list or pictures of what they would put in their own memory box

**A PDF with the memory box illustration will be sent in advance to print out. | Suitable for ages 6 yrs and above**

**Group size: by arrangement | Duration: 1 hour**

*Virtual events will be similar but adapted for online use.*



# REVIEWS

## ***The After Christmas Tree (HB 12.99)***

'Tells the plaintive story of a small Christmas tree abandoned on a cold pavement in January, ideal to read when the festive season draws to an end.' **The Sunday Telegraph, Christmas roundup**

'A skilled debut picture book (for households with potted, growing Christmas trees) about a child who cannot bear to throw out the tree. Pleasing, hand-made pencil-and-wash drawings evoke the awkwardness of keeping it around and the joy of a tree that can live outside, attract creatures and return next year.' **The Times, Best Children's Books of the Year 2020**

'This is a touching and ultimately uplifting picture book. Minimal text outlines the story, while the stunning watercolour illustrations provide a sensitive visual narrative. The wordless double-page image of Brian woefully dragging his tree into the garden is loaded with emotion, emphasised by grey-blue colour palette and wide empty space, which poignantly illustrates his sorrow. Brian's compassion is heart-warming, as is his recognition that kindness should extend throughout the year, not just at Christmas.' **Booktrust on The After Christmas Tree**



## ***Phyllis and Grace (HB £12.99)***

'Young children visiting a relative with Alzheimer's or memory loss will appreciate this sensitive and surprisingly uplifting story.' **Daily Mail**

'Any child who has a relation suffering from memory loss will appreciate the gently uplifting message in Phyllis and Grace which tells the story of a little girl who befriends an increasingly forgetful neighbour... (their) new friendship will prove surprisingly rewarding.'

**The Oldie: Review of books for summer 2022**

'The text is very sensitive, capturing all the warmth of the friendship while gently depicting the progression of Phyllis' dementia. Bethan Welby's illustrations match it perfectly, so that we see Phyllis through Grace's eyes, sometimes laughing, sometimes quiet, sometimes sad, but always a true friend. It's a book that will help children understand the realities of dementia and provide opportunities for discussion, but it's also the story of two individuals and their relationship.'

**Books for Keeps**



*Please contact Scallywag Press on [publisher@scallywagpress.com](mailto:publisher@scallywagpress.com) for more information.*

